

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0217
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 2612
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4328

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RO, NI
SUBJECT: OBASANJO VISIT TO ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 3979

1. FOLLOWING OBASANJO VISIT TO ROMANIA (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR
MET WITH NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR, AND EMBOFFS HAD SEPERATE
MEETINGS WITH NIGERIAN DCM AND A COUNSELOR IN MFA'S AFRICAN
DIVISION. CONSENSUS IS THAT CEAUSESCU AND OBASANJO SEEMED
IOTO HAVE GOTTEN ON VERY WELL AND NIGERIANS GERNALLY FOUND
CEAUSESCU WELL-INFORMED AND DECISIVE. HOWEVER, AT LOWER
LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS WERE TOUGH AN DRAWN OUT ON NEARLY
EVERY POINT AND IT WAS NIGERIAN IMPRESSION THAT ROMANIANS,
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INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI, HAD NOT DONE THEIR
HOMEWORK.

2. ALTHOUGH MANY DOCUMENTS WERE SIGNED, IT APPEARS THAT
THEY WERE MORE STATEMENTS OF INTENTIONS THAT CONCRETE
AGREEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE NIGERIAN
OIL FOR ROMANIAN GOODS IS PRIMARILY ONE OF PRINCIPLE SO

FAR. IT APPEARS THAT ROMANIAN SIDE TRIED TO SET PRICE FOR BOTH SIDES OF THE EQUATION AND, NATURALLY, MET WITH DIFFICULTIES. NIGERIAN DCM COMMENTED THAT ROMANIANS ARE "CRAZY IF THEY THINK THEY CAN ACT LIKE COLONIALISTS". HE ALSO SAID THAT NIGERIA STILL HAD TO DECIDE WHAT ROMANIAN GOODS THEY COULD USE IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR OIL. ONE CONCRETE RESULT OF THE RECIPROCAL CHIEFS OF STATE VISITS IS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS TO STUDY IN ROMANIA (ON NIGERIAN SCHOLARSHIPS) FROM ABOUT 125 LAST YEAR TO AN EXPECTED TOTAL OF ABOUT 500 THIS SUMMER.

3. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSION WITH MFA, IT WAS CLEAR THAT ONE GREAT ATTRACTION OF NIGERIA FOR ROMANIANS IS THAT, BEYOND AND BECAUSE OF ITS OIL, NIGERIA "HAS MONEY" AND REPRESENTS POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT MARKET FOR ROMANIAN GOODS. HOWEVER, ROMANIA IS RUNNING INTO DIFFICULTIES WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THAT, APART FROM PROTOCOL ASPECTS, IT SOMETIMES TENDS TO TREAT THEM AS SOMETHING LESS THAN EQUAL PARTNERS IN SPITE OF RHETORIC TO CONTRARY. ROMANIA ALSO HAS PROBLEMS ESTABLISHING NEW COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP IN COUNTRIES WHERE A TRADE PATTERN WITH INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES IS ALREADY ESTABLISHED. IT APPEARS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF DOCUMENTS SIGNED DURING VISIT MAY FACE FURTHER DIFFICULT NIGERIAN/ROMANIAN DISCUSSIONS. INCIDENTALLY, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR LEFT BUCHAREST SHORTLY AFTER VISIT TO TAKE OVER HIS FOREIGN
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MINISTRY'S "AFRICAN DESK". HE TOLD OUR AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS LEAVING POST WITH A NEW CONFIDENCE IN THE EMERGING U.S.-AFRICAN POLICY WHICH HE CREDITS VERY LARGELY TO INITIATIVES OF AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG AND TO AN INCREASINGLY FERTILE DIALOGUE UNDERWAY IN LAGOS, WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.
AGGREY

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